

The story of an Honest Shopkeeper
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Chapter 1: Business Ethics and Moral Integrity

A Merchant's Decision: Closing at Midday

On a certain day, following the midday (ẓuhr) prayer, Imām Abū Ḥanīfah closed his shop and began walking towards his home. As he made his way, a man approached him and inquired about his early departure.

A Question of Timing:

Unnamed Man:

"Nu'mān! Are you heading home after closing the shop?"

Imām Abū Ḥanīfah:

"Yes, I have closed the shop."

Unnamed Man: "Why did you close it?"

Imām Abū Ḥanīfah: "I closed it because clouds have gathered in the sky today. The light is not sufficient, which prevents the customer from properly assessing the quality of the cloth. I have closed the shop so that no one purchases an ordinary piece of cloth mistaking it for a high-quality one. I do not wish for anyone to be deceived because of me."

Moral Commerce: A Commitment to Truth

Thus, Imām Abū Ḥanīfah, a merchant by profession, demonstrated profound concern for his customers' interests. His conscientious act highlights the ethical heights to which he held his commercial dealings. A shopkeeper who exhibited such sincere goodwill towards his clients exemplified the ideal of integrity in trade.